AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A videoconference system, comprising:

terminals;

multipoint control units (MCUs), as a superior level for the terminals, for controlling the corresponding terminals to participate in a videoconference;

conference management systems, as a superior level for the ~~multipoint control units~~ MCUs, for managing resource allocation of the corresponding ~~multipoint control units~~MCUs, and performing conference dispatching and control for a local conference site; and

conference coordination systems, as a superior level for the conference management systems, for ~~coordinating~~ determining a master conference management system and a slave conference management system from corresponding conference management systems to perform dispatching among the master conference management system and the slave conference management system and a neighboring conference coordination system ~~to perform dispatching~~ at a dispatching request, and for controlling the conference by forwarding conference control data;

wherein one of the MCUs managed by the master conference management system serves as a master MCU, other MCUs in the master conference management system and MCUs in the slave conference system serve as slave MCUs, and the master conference management system is adapted for accomplishing cascading among the master MCU and the slave MCUs .

2. (currently amended) The videoconference system according to claim 1, wherein each conference coordination system comprises:

a system management module, for accomplishing system configuration and operating management of the conference coordination system;

a conference dispatching module, for processing conference dispatching requests from the subordinate conference management systems or from the neighboring conference coordination system; a conference control module, for forwarding the conference control data; and

a multipoint communication module, for communicating with the ~~subordinate~~ master conference management system and the slave conference management system[[s]] and the neighboring conference coordination system via information containing multipoint communication data in the multipoint communication module.

3. (previously presented) The videoconference system according to claim 2, wherein models between the conference coordination systems and the subordinate conference management systems as well as between the conference coordination systems are based on the International Organization for Standardization 7-layer model for communication, with the International Telecommunications Union transport service ITU-T X.224 below the transport layer.

4. (previously presented) The videoconference system according to claim 3, wherein the multipoint communication data in the multipoint communication module comprises

a source node ID,

a channel ID,

a list of destination nodes,

an upper layer application data and

application data segment mark, and

the conference coordination systems implement routing strategy by using the channel ID and the list of destination nodes in the multipoint communication data.

5. (currently amened) The videoconference system according to claim 2, wherein the system configuration of each system management module comprises:

the terminals being numbered uniformly;

the conference management system being configured with number segments to determine corresponding terminals; and

the conference coordination systems being configured with the number segments managed by the corresponding conference management systems and number segments managed by the neighboring conference coordination system, so as to determine ~~a plurality of~~ the corresponding conference management systems involved in the conference in accordance with the system configuration, split the conference into sub-conferences, and distribute the sub-conferences to ~~each corresponding conference management system~~ the master conference management system and the slave conference management system.

6. (currently amended) The videoconference system according to claim 5, wherein ~~during a videoconference,~~ the conference coordination systems determine [[a]] the master conference management system and [[a]] the slave conference management system dynamically in accordance with the system configuration and dispatching strategy.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The videoconference system according to claim 6, wherein the dispatching strategy of the conference coordination systems is to determine the master conference management system in accordance with the number of terminals managed by the conference management systems and to determine whether to merge the sub--conferences into the master conference management system in accordance with the number of the sub-conferences.

9. (original) The videoconference system according to claim 2, wherein the conference control data comprises conference state data and conference control commands.

10. (previously presented) The videoconference system according to claim 9, wherein the conference state data refers to data reported by each conference management system to the corresponding conference coordination system and forwarded by the conference

coordination system to other conference management systems during the videoconference, including start/end of conference, entering/leaving of conference site, or change of chairman token.

11. (original) The videoconference system according to claim 9, wherein the conference control commands comprise prolongation/ending of conference, calling/hanging up/adding/deleting/broadcasting/viewing of conference site, and setting of multi-vision.

12. (currently amended) The videoconference system according to claim 1, wherein the dispatching request refers to that a subscriber requests for conference dispatching from the conference management system where the account number of a conference caller is, including a start time, a duration of the conference, and terminals involved in the conference.

13. (previously presented) The videoconference system according to claim 1, wherein the conference coordination systems are separated from or embedded in the conference management systems.

14. (currently amended) A videoconference system management method, comprising the steps of:

    [[a]] subscribers requesting for conference dispatching from a home conference management system;

    the home conference management systems managing the corresponding local conference site directly at the dispatching request, ~~and~~ or transferring the dispatching across conference management systems to a corresponding conference coordination system; and

    the conference coordination system as a superior level for the conference management systems, ~~coordinating~~ determining a master conference management system and a slave management system from corresponding conference management systems and a neighboring conference coordination system ~~to perform dispatching~~ at the dispatching request and controlling the conference by forwarding conference control

data;

     wherein one of multipoint control units (MCUs) managed by the master conference management system serves as a master MCU, other MCUs in the master conference management system and MCUs in the slave conference management system serve as slave MCUs, and the master conference management system accomplishes cascading among the master MCU and the slave MCUs.

15. (currently amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein the coordinating step further comprises the steps of:

     the conference coordination system determining each terminal's home conference management system;

     the conference coordination system splitting the a videoconference into sub-conferences and distributing the sub-conferences to each corresponding conference management system;

     ~~the conference coordination system determining a master conference management system and a plurality of slave conference management systems.~~

16. (previously presented) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, further comprising the following steps before the step of requesting for conference dispatching:

     numbering the terminals in the videoconference uniformly; configuring the conference management systems with number segments to determine corresponding terminals;

     configuring the conference coordination system with the number segments managed by the corresponding conference management systems and number segments managed by the neighboring conference coordination system, so that the conference coordination system can perform dispatching in accordance with the corresponding managed number segments.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 15, further comprising the following steps after the coordinating step:

the master and slave conference management systems feeding a coordinating result back to the corresponding conference coordination systems;

the conference coordination systems feeding [[a]] one or more final coordinating results back to the home conference management system sending the dispatching request.

19. (currently amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein the home conference ~~coordination~~ management system refers to a conference management system where the account number of a videoconference caller is.

20. (previously presented) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein the conference control data comprises conference state data and conference control commands, wherein the conference state data refers to data reported by each conference management system to the corresponding conference coordination system and forwarded by the conference coordination system to other conference management systems during the videoconference, including start/end of conference, entering/leaving of conference site, or change of chairman token and the conference control commands comprise prolongation/ending of conference, calling/hanging up/adding/deleting/broadcasting/viewing of conference site, and setting of multi-vision.

21. (previously presented) The videoconference system management method according to claim 15, wherein the conference coordination systems perform conference dispatching with reference to a dispatching strategy which is to determine the master conference management system in accordance with the number of terminals managed by each conference management system and determine whether to merge the sub-conferences into the master conference management system in accordance with the number of the sub-conferences.

22. (currently amended) The videoconference system management method according to claim 14, wherein the dispatching request refers to that the subscriber requests for

conference dispatching from the conference management system where the account number of a conference caller is, including a~start time, ~~and~~ a~duration of the conference, and terminals involved in the conference.

23. (previously presented) The videoconference system management method according to claim 15, further comprising the following steps before the step of requesting for conference dispatching:

      numbering terminals in the videoconference uniformly;

      configuring the conference management systems with number segments to determine corresponding terminals; and

      configuring the conference coordination system with the number segments managed by the corresponding conference management systems and number segments managed by the neighboring conference coordination system, so that the conference coordination system can perform dispatching in accordance with the corresponding managed number segments.

24. (currently amended) A videoconference system, comprising:

      terminals;

      multipoint control units_(MCUs), as a superior level for the terminals, for controlling the corresponding terminals to participate in a videoconference;

      conference management systems, as a superior level for the ~~multipoint control units~~MCUs, for managing resource allocation of the corresponding ~~multipoint control units~~MCUs, and performing conference dispatching and control for a local conference site; and

      a conference coordination system, as a superior level for the conference management systems, for ~~coordinating~~ determining a master conference management system and a slave conference management system from corresponding conference management systems to perform dispatching among the master conference management system and the slave conference management system at a dispatching request and for controlling the conference by forwarding conference control data;

      wherein one of MCUs managed by the master conference management system

serves as a master MCU, other MCUs in the master conference management system and MCUs in the slave conference system serve as slave MCUs, and the master conference management system is adapted for accomplishing cascading among the master MCU and the slave MCUs.

25. (currently amended) A videoconference system management method, comprising the steps of:

[[a]] subscribers requesting for conference dispatching from [[a]] home conference management systems;

the home conference management system managing the corresponding local conference site directly at the dispatching request, [[and]] or transferring the dispatching across conference management systems to a corresponding conference coordination system; and

the conference coordination system, as a superior level for the conference management systems, coordinating determining a master conference management system and a slave conference management system from corresponding conference management systems to perform dispatching among the master conference management system and the slave conference management system at the dispatching request and controlling the conference by forwarding conference control data;

wherein one of MCUs managed by the master conference management system serves as a master MCU, other MCUs in the master conference management system and MCUs in the slave conference system serve as slave MCUs, and the master conference management system is adapted for accomplishing cascading among the master MCU and the slave MCUs.

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